and political astuteness. Before his death, with the aid of some subordinates, he annexed several of the states into which China had been divided during the preceding short dynasties, including ones in Central China, Szechwan, South China, and around Nanking. Among these were Nan P'ing, in the present Hupeh[3] Ch'u, in the present Hunan, the Hou Shu, in the present Szechwan, Nan Han, in Kwangsi and Kwangtung, Wu Yiieh, in the present Chekiang, Nan Tang, with its center in what is now Nanking, and Min in Fukien. T'ai Tsu set up, as had other strong dynasties, a hierarchy of civil officials, substituting it for the military rule and semi-independent principalities which had been increasing since the rebellion of An Lu-shan under the T'ang. To bring about this change he induced his leading followers who had helped him obtain the throne to resign their military positions and compensated them with other rewards. Once more the Empire was highly centralized under an autocrat ruling through a bureaucracy. T'ai Tsu showed favors to Confucianism, the school through which the members of the civil service were trained. Education was fostered, presumably with something of the same purpose. Possibly to strengthen the imperial power—and perhaps as a gesture of clemency—T'ai Tsu decreed that all capital sentences were not to be left, as often heretofore, to the discretion of the provincial authorities, but must be passed on to the throne for review. A new criminal code was issued, based upon that of the T'ang, which, in its turn, had been influenced by that of the Sui. The country appears to have welcomed a hand strong enough to suppress the predatory armies and restore order.

Chao K'uang-yin's accomplishments during the thirteen years

that he wore the imperial title were noteworthy, but when he died, in 976, the area which had owed allegiance to the T'ang, even within what is now China proper, did not all own his sway. In the Northeast the Khitan still held territory—in the present Hopei and Shansi—which was traditionally Chinese. In the present Shansi, with its capital at T'aiyiian, was a state called the North-ern Han, set up by a half-brother of Liu Chih-yuan, the founder of the Hou Han. On the south coast Wu Yiieh, a principality with its capital at the present Hangchow, held out, and in the modern Yunnan Nan Chao maintained its autonomy. It became, therefore, the chief task of Chao K'uang-yia s successor, a younger